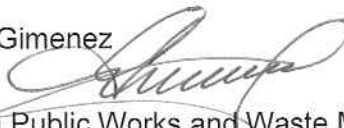


Memorandum



Date: March 19, 2012

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members
Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Update on Public Works and Waste Management Department's
Grant Applications

At the February 2, 2012 Board of County Commissioners (Board) meeting, Commissioner Diaz requested that a report be provided on all matching solid waste grants, outlining what currently existed and what was in the application process.

Current Matching Grant

The Public Works and Waste Management Department (PWWMD) applied for a grant in January 2011 that proposed a refuse vehicle replacement project through the Clean Diesel Emerging Technologies Funding Assistance Program to address the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Programmatic Priorities to Maximize Public Health Benefits. The department requested \$1.5 million in EPA assistance for the purchase of the hybrid drive technology portion for 15 hybrid hydraulic refuse vehicles and was recently awarded the grant request in full (\$1.5 million). The required local cost share match of 75 percent for the vehicle replacement project (\$3.75 million) is budgeted by the PWWMD in the current fiscal year. The \$3.75 million in matching funds are budgeted to procure non-hybrid trucks. This grant allows the PWWMD to upgrade its purchase to hybrid trucks with no additional stress on the enterprise funds. Administration of the grant will be conducted by existing staff, also at no additional cost, as a function of regular responsibilities.

The two-year grant award will support the department's fleet upgrade using cleaner diesel hybrid vehicle technology. Currently, the PWWMD has six (6) automated hydraulic hybrid vehicles in operation. The automated hydraulic hybrid refuse vehicles will be used for house-to-house curbside garbage collection. The new vehicles will have an average expected life of seven years and will perform the same function as the current garbage trucks. The current trucks will be retired, as required by the EPA, just prior to their initially scheduled retirement date. The implementation of this project would allow the department to continue utilizing a new hybrid drive technology and accelerate the planned conversion of the garbage fleet.

The PWWMD conducted a pilot program which collected performance data monthly to analyze and compare the costs/benefits of this project. The vehicle operated during the pilot project achieved a 45 percent increase in fuel efficiency over the baseline trucks. With the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel fuel even greater reductions are expected. Beyond reducing fuel consumption, the new technology is expected to reduce brake wear and improve drivability and overall productivity.

Grants Being Applied For

The PWWMD is not currently applying for any additional solid waste grants but is exploring the possibility of applying for an upcoming grant opportunity through the EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Program (DERA). On January 4, 2011, President Obama signed legislation (H.R. 5809) reauthorizing grants to state, local, and tribal governments for programs to reduce emissions from existing diesel engines. The bill authorizes up to \$100 million each year for the DERA program for fiscal years 2012 through 2016 and provides new opportunities which are being evaluated. Diesel emission reduction projects include, but are not limited to the purchase of new vehicles, vehicle upgrades, engine replacements, truck stop electrification, fleet upgrades, and engine retrofits.

Later in the year, the EPA will release the Request for Proposal (RFP) for this program. The PWWMD will work in conjunction with the Office of Management and Budget's Grants Division while deciding whether or not to apply for this, or any other, waste-related grants.

If you have additional questions, please contact PWWMD Director Kathleen Woods-Richardson at 305-514-6628, or me directly at 305-375-1880.

c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor/County Manager
Kathleen Woods-Richardson, Director, Public Works and Waste Management Dept.
Jennifer Moon, Director, Office of Management and Budget